

OCI No. 3017/63

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VIETNAMESE SUMMARY SUPPLEMENT
(Information as of 1100 EDT)

1. Madame Nhu apparently is devoting today to resting in her seventh floor suite in the Hotel Barclay in New York. Her schedule tomorrow features a luncheon at the Overseas Press Club of America in New York, and is believed to include taping of a David Susskind "Open End" program and an interview for a local New York television channel. She is booked for an afternoon talk at Sarah Lawrence College on Thursday.

2. She was met on arrival at Idlewild yesterday by subordinates of South Vietnam's UN observer delegation and Washington Embassy, and about 100 reporters and photographers. There were no official US Government representatives, and the conspicuous absentees included her father, the former ambassador to Washington, and her mother, former head of the UN observer delegation.

3. The press noted that her arrival was greeted by a statement from a "high administration spokesman" deploring the forums being made available to her by US information media and press groups, and another statement from the new Vietnamese ambassador, Do Vang Ly, noting that she does not speak for the government but as a private citizen.

4. Before leaving Paris, Madame Nhu criticized the "criminal and incredibly cruel attitude of American correspondents" covering the latest Buddhist suicide. (Ten Western correspondents were notified by anonymous calls that "something would happen" in the Central Market at noon Saturday. Newsmen waited for almost an hour before they saw the burst of flame some 75 feet away as the young bonze set himself on fire.) "Imagine that someone in France announced in advance that a woman was going to jump out of a window," she said. "What would you think of newsmen who, knowing about it beforehand, would satisfy themselves by watching the scene with cameras without alerting police?" Both in Paris and New York she refused to comment on the beating of three US newsmen leaving the scene of the Saigon suicide.

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5. Madame Nhu told a CBS correspondent who flew from Paris with her that she had in fact been "strongly dissuaded" from visiting the US but chalked her visit up to the "feminine spirit of contradiction--maybe if they had invited, had insisted that I come, I would not come." The correspondent noted that she giggled, arched, and "fluttered a little like a butterfly in trouble," but otherwise he and the welcoming press at Idlewild reported that she has been smiling and unnettled thus far.

6. At the airport she again denied that she had ever made the "soldiers of fortune" remark, suggested examination of the 29 September Rome press conference transcription, and complained that neither AP nor the New York Times had carried denials she had written them. (The New York Times said it had printed her denials several times; AP said no letter of denial had been received, and reiterated that the statement had been made not in the press conference but in separate interviews with both AP and ABC representatives in Rome.)

7. Madame Nhu, dressed in a brown ao dai and carrying a fur cape, said that because she had become a "controversial person in spite of myself" she would not try to see any US Government officials. "I have come here to see you," she said in English, "to try to understand why we can't get along better. I feel this deeply, and I hope that at the end of my stay I may know." She rejected her father's charge Sunday that she is "power-hungry," commenting that she enjoys the confidence of the South Vietnamese Government and would be "betraying it" if she were to seek power.

8. She said she would "surely" see her parents while in the US but did not know just when; subsequently she remarked that if she did not see her father, "it will be because he does not want it."

9. Half a dozen pickets, passing out statements headlined "Stop the Terror in Vietnam," walked in a circle in front of the International Arrivals building at Idlewild as she left the airfield. They represented the "Libertarian Action Committee" of the General Strike for Peace. Madame Nhu, passing at high speed in a limousine with police escort, probably did not see them.

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10. Her engagements include: Friday, Fordham University; Saturday, Columbia University; Monday, Radcliffe College, Harvard Law School; Tuesday, the Whig Cliosophic Society of Princeton University; Wednesday, Women's Press Club, Washington; Thursday, North Carolina State College; Friday, Howard University and National Press Club, Washington.

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